

SECRET

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Thursday - 13 August 1970

25X1 1. [redacted] Briefed Chairman L. Mendel Rivers and Chief Counsel Russ Blandford, House Armed Services Committee, on an Agency activity in connection with the current Middle East situation, explaining the sensitivity of our role and the fact that policy aspects were in the hands of the State Department.

A lengthy discussion followed on the Soviet interest in the Middle East, during which I tried to summarize developments since our last Subcommittee meeting where this was discussed.

Blandford asked if we had any information about the Soviet AN-22 transport plane which went down off Iceland a couple weeks ago. He expressed suspicion that the plane carried some sort of sensitive equipment, since the Soviets had been engaged ever since in intensive efforts to recover all debris from the area. I said I hadn't heard this aspect discussed but would look into it.

I told Chairman Rivers of our concern about the problem of our retirement ceiling and said we would be in touch with him very shortly about amending our legislation in this and other respects. Before I could explain the details, Rivers broke in to say I was wasting my time, he fully appreciated our problem but we would have to get our bill through the Senate first--then he would "take care of it right away." He spoke bitterly of the amount of legislation the House has passed which is now awaiting action in the Senate, and said he wasn't going to pass a single additional bill until the Senate got back to work.

25X1 2. [redacted] Accompanied [redacted] CI Staff, and 25X1
25X1 [redacted] OCI, who briefed Senator George Murphy (R., Calif.)
on the general situation in Israel and the Middle East preparatory to Senator 25X1
Murphy's upcoming trip. Murphy seemed well pleased with the briefing,
and at the end I briefly [redacted]

25X1 3. [redacted] Called Russ Blandford, House Armed Services
Committee staff, to say that after further checking at Headquarters I could
add nothing to what I told him and Chairman Rivers this morning re the AN-22
which went down near Iceland and the terms of the Arab/Israeli cease-fire
agreement (i. e., neither side would "improve its position" while the agreement
was in effect).

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[REDACTED]

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5. [REDACTED] Talked with Harriet Robnett, on the staff of Senator Stuart Symington (D., Mo.), and offered her a suggested reply to a constituent inquiry [REDACTED] having to do with the My Lai incident. Since the Senator has already sent an interim response [REDACTED] indicating that he would provide an answer when a reply is received from the Agency, Miss Robnett asked if we could give her a short note merely stating that there was no truth to the assertion that the Agency planned the My Lai massacre. An appropriate letter is being prepared.

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6. [REDACTED] Met with Walter Pincus, Consultant, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, regarding mention in the transcript of State Department testimony [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] I said I understood State had expressed concern about this, but wanted to be sure Pincus understood the Agency's concern as well, since we thought publication of this part of the transcript might produce some unfortunate ramifications. Pincus asked why I thought there was any problem--whether State had indicated that the Committee was reluctant to delete the passages in question. I said this was our understanding. Pincus said "this is the game State has been playing--they are going around making problems where there aren't any." He said the Committee hadn't even considered whether or not to publish this passage, but he saw no reason to think they would want to publish it if there was any objection, and he was annoyed that State misled the Agency into thinking the Committee would try to publish it.

Pincus said Senator Fulbright's interest had been aroused by the recent revelations of the size of the budgets of certain elements of the intelligence community such as NSA, and would like from the Agency either a briefing or a piece of paper giving a breakdown of the budgets of the various intelligence agencies. I said I would pass this request on to the Director.

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25X1 7. [redacted] With apologies Chairman Mahon, House Appropriations Committee, canceled a meeting with the Director scheduled for 11:00 a. m. due to the press of business on the floor of the House occasioned by the veto messages of the President on the Education bill and the Independent Offices--HUD Appropriations bill. The Director was notified.

25X1 8. [redacted] Received a call from Andy Montgomery, Assistant to Senator Jack Miller (R., Iowa). Mr. Montgomery told me the Senator is trying to identify a Soviet or Russian writing on their use of ridicule of foreign leaders and leaderships to create dissension within the foreign countries and asked if we could be of any help in identifying appropriate material on the subject. I told Mr. Montgomery I would look into this and I would be back in touch with him. 25X1

[redacted]

25X1 10. [redacted] Met with Ralph Preston, House Appropriations Committee staff, who again expressed the Chairman's apologies for cancellation of this morning's briefing. I told him that he could assure the Chairman that apologies were not necessary, that Mr. Helms well appreciates the Chairman's position. Mr. Preston told me that he does not believe that the Chairman will be able to schedule another meeting of the Subcommittee before about 9 September. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Mr. Preston expressed his appreciation for assistance in handling this matter. See Journal item of 11 August 1970. 25X1

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